

MINUTES
Bleckley County Commissioner Meeting
Bleckley County JC Building
Thursday, January 16, 2025 – 10:00 a.m.

PRESENT: Commissioner Mike Davis, Russell Davidson, Paige Baggs, Ronnie Smith, Matt Arnold, Candace Summerall, Priscilla McIntyre, Lisa Eisele, Melissa Barker, Cheryl Ates, Cindy Newman, Vickie Tomlinson, Jayme Kelley, Sheriff Daniel Cape, Rob Grimsley, Jackie Shoemaker, Freida Dykes

Commissioner Davis opened in prayer.

Commissioner Davis led the Pledge of Allegiance, and welcomed all to the meeting.

All attendees received the following:

Minutes – December 19, 2024 - County Commissioner Meeting

There were no questions or concerns. The Minutes were approved.

Topics discussed from Commissioner Davis

Commissioner Davis signed the Resolutions and the Authorities of the Tax Commissioner

- Resolution approving the waiver of certain penalties and interest by the Bleckley County Tax Authorities and Tax Commissioner
- Resolution approving the authority of the Tax Commissioner to conduct judicial and rem tax foreclosures
- Authorities of the Tax Commissioner
 1. Authority to correct obvious clerical errors
 2. Authority to accept checks, cash, debit cards, and/or credit cards
 3. Authority to disburse property, title ad valorem taxes and motor vehicles to Bleckley County
- Signing of the Clerk's Certificate to undertake judicial in rem tax foreclosures

Commissioner Davis stated he is opting in on House Bill 581.

Resolution was signed to add two new members to the Tax Assessor Board.

Topics discussed in today's meeting

Cheryl Ates, Chief Registrar, stated that every county in Georgia is required to have an Election Board. She was appointed the Election Supervisor over the Bleckley County board and invites all in attendance to the Board meetings, which are held every third Thursday at 2:00 p.m. at the Registrar's Office. She stated there will be a special school board election on March 18th; early voting is February 24th through March 14th with two Saturday voting dates on March 1st and March 18th. The deadline to register is February 18, 2025. As of now, Bleckley County has 8,651 registered voters.

Freida Dykes is working with Steve Handel with TextGov, who is creating the new county website. The site continues to be under construction, but new information is added often.

Rob Grimsley, newly elected Chief Judge of Magistrate, will attend training in February, and Magistrate Clerk, Sheila Brantley will attend training in June.

Paige Baggs stated she recently mailed the 2024 tax reminder notices and is waiting for the public utilities to be mailed out.

Sheriff Cape stated four flock cameras are installed and active, all the patrol vehicles have Axon Fleet cameras installed, a swearing in ceremony was held for all the deputies and a deputy was hired. The Sheriff's office had a break in the car break-ins and they are working in conjunction with the Cochran Police Department on the case.

Melissa Barker reminded all in attendance the activities scheduled for the Chamber of Commerce with the Dueling Pianos event on Saturday, January 25, 2025.

Vicki Tomlinson stated Region 5 hosted an awards banquet, and Mr. Bill Cheek received the Legacy Leader Award. Heartland Ambulance Service received first place in the Cans for Goods Drive, a unified command class was hosted, and Winter Wonderland had another successful year.

Candace Summerall said the City of Cochran and the County of Bleckley Collaborative Meeting will be held on February 18, 2025, in the Chamber of Commerce Conference Room.

Jackie Shoemaker, Executive Director with the Red Cross, attended the meeting to offer resources for the county to use in emergencies.

Priscilla McIntyre, a representative for Hospice Care Options, attended the meeting to inform all in attendance of the new services and resources the program offers.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Mike Davis, County Commissioner

Date

Freida Dykes, County Clerk

Time